

## (12) United States Patent Harte

# (10) **Patent No.:**

## US 9,181,799 B1

### (45) Date of Patent:

Nov. 10, 2015

#### (54) FLUID SAMPLING SYSTEM

(71) Applicant: Philip T. Harte, Concord, NH (US)

(72)Inventor: **Philip T. Harte**, Concord, NH (US)

Assignee: The United States of America, as (73)

> represented by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior,

Washington, DC (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 460 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 13/789,401

(22) Filed: Mar. 7, 2013

#### Related U.S. Application Data

- (60) Provisional application No. 61/662,712, filed on Jun. 21, 2012.
- (51) Int. Cl. (2006.01)E21B 49/08
- (52) U.S. Cl. CPC ..... *E21B 49/084* (2013.01)
- (58) Field of Classification Search CPC ...... E21B 43/12; E21B 43/14; E21B 49/08 See application file for complete search history.

#### (56)References Cited

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,335,732 A *	8/1994	McIntyre 166/313
5,404,752 A	4/1995	Chace et al.
5,881,814 A	3/1999	Mills
5,955,666 A *	9/1999	Mullins 73/152.18
6,250,390 B1	6/2001	Narvaez et al.
6,281,489 B1*	8/2001	Tubel et al 250/227.14
6,355,928 B1*	3/2002	Skinner et al 250/269.1
6,581,455 B1*	6/2003	Berger et al 73/152.55
2001/0050170 A1*	12/2001	Woie et al 166/252.1

8/2002	Tubel et al 250/227.14
2/2004	Campbell et al 166/313
6/2005	Freedman 324/303
6/2006	Lopez de Cardenas
	et al 166/313
9/2006	Burge et al 166/313
4/2007	Walker et al 166/313
3/2008	Vasques et al 73/152.17
7/2008	Sanchez 166/278
12/2008	Fowler et al 166/250.01
1/2009	Zazovsky et al 166/60
3/2009	Patel et al 340/853.2
6/2009	Waid et al 250/269.3
	2/2004 6/2005 6/2006 9/2006 4/2007 3/2008 7/2008 1/2009 3/2009

#### (Continued)

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Barber, C. and Davis, G.B. 1987. Representative sampling of ground water from short-screened boreholes. Ground Water, V25, No. 5, 581-587 p.

#### (Continued)

Primary Examiner — Benjamin Fiorello (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — C. Joan Gilsdorf

#### **ABSTRACT**

A sampling system and a method for sampling fluid from a target zone within a well bore without commingling fluid from other zones in the well. The sampling system includes a hydraulic flow control system and a differential flow logging system. The hydraulic flow control system has a plurality of multi-level, vertically disposed pumps with fluid extraction rates set to generate hydraulic zones above and below a center one of the pumps. The hydraulic zones isolate fluid flow in a target zone surrounding the center pump, and the center pump collects a sample from the isolated target zone without mixing fluid from other zones of the well. The differential logging system has a plurality of flow devices. Each of the plurality of flow devices is disposed near one of the hydraulic zones to monitor vertical flow in the well and confirm isolation of the target zone.

#### 15 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

